

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 MMS-03 PER-01 ABF-01 SP-03

OC-06 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 031240Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2490

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUANDA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0299

FOR AF/EX AND AF/SA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, AFSP, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: LOURENCO MARQUES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL

1. LAST WEEK'S COUP IN LISBON AND RESULTING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH UNFOLDING RAPIDLY IN MOZAMBIQUE REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL STRUCTURE AT THIS POST.

2. IN THE PAST WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COVER EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE WITH MINIMAL STAFF BECAUSE PORTUGUESE REGIME IMPOSED CENSORSHIP AND STRICT CONTROLS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY, PUBLICATIONS CONTAINED ONLY OFFICIALLY SPONSORED NEWS, PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO TALK, SOURCES WERE DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP AND THERE WAS COMPARATIVELY LITTLE INFORMATION TO REPORT. FURTHER, U.S. POLICY REQUIRED AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES TO MAINTAIN "LOW PROFILE" TO AVOID BEING TOO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH PORTUGUESE REGIME.

3. NOW IN BRIEF PERIOD OF PAST WEEK EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED. PRESS IS FREE AND OUTSPOKEN. POLITICAL MOVEMENTS ARE BURGEONING, MANIFESTOS AND COMMUNIQUEs ARE BEING ISSUED, POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS BEGINNING TO BUBBLE UP ALL OVER THE

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PLACE, RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ARE

TAKING ON NEW IMPORTANCE. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND MAY TURN OUT TO BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUR LIMITED STAFF TO KEEP ON TOP OF EVERYTHING. OUR TASK IS COMPLICATED BY THE ARRIVAL OF NUMEROUS CORRESPONDENTS MANY OF WHOM SEEK INTERVIEWS WITH US AND SOME OF WHOM NEED OUR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN ENTERING THE COUNTRY, IF, AS NOW SEEMS AT LEAST A POSSIBILITY, THERE SHOULD BE A REFERENDUM OR ELECTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL INCREASE EVEN MORE AND WILL REQUIRE CLOSE ATTENTION. OUR FIVE-MAN AMERICAN STAFF IS ALREADY STRETCHED THIN AND ILLNESS OR ABSENCE OF ANY PERSON WOULD IMPOSE HEAVY BURDEN ON REST.

4. I THEREFORE URGENTLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS: A) WE NEED IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT ON PERMANENT BASIS OR ON LONG TERM TDY OF ONE AMERICAN STENOGRAPHER-TYPIST-BACKUP COMMUNICATOR AND ONE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING SUBSTANTIVE FS OFFICER PRIMARILY FOR POLITICAL REPORTING; B) CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: 1) OPEN SMALL OFFICE IN BEIRA EITHER ON TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT BASIS WITH ONE AMERICAN OFFICER, ONE AMERICAN CLERK-STENOGRAPHER AND SEVERAL LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS; 2) ASSIGNMENT OF USIS PRESS-CULTURAL OFFICER PLUS SUPPORTING LOCAL STAFF TO LOURENCO MARQUES; 3) ASSIGNMENT OF ANOTHER SUBSTANTIVE FS OFFICER TO L.M. FOR GENERAL REPORTING AND BACKUP DUTIES IN CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATION. SECOND LOCALLY HIRED DRIVER AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE WORKER MAY ALSO BECOME NECESSARY.

5. ABOVE ARE MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THIS POST WILL CONTINUE AS CONSULATE GENERAL FOR TIME BEING AND THAT INDEPENDENCE AND RESULTANT FULLFLEDGED MISSION STATUS ARE STILL SOME YEARS OFF.  
VAN OSS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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